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599

November 15, 1978

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

Subject: Ron Javers, San Francisco Chronicle reporter

Phil Burton called this morning to say that Javers, who had accompanied Ryan to Guyana for a visit to the People's Church Community, had been detained at the airport. Ryan asked me to call David Pearlman at the Chronicle for details.

Pearlman states that Javers had accompanied Ryan and twenty or so Californians to Guyana. Javers had written to the Guyanese Embassy (Cicely Douvieu) asking that Javers be accredited. Upon landing in Guyana Javers was detained ostensibly for carrying $350.00 worth of Guyanese currency in violation of Guyanese currency regulations. All other members of the party were permitted to go to the hotel. Javers was detained and questioned.

Javers reached Doug Ellis at the Embassy. He also reached Pearlman and reported that this morning immigration authorities had gone to the hotel and picked up passports of other reporters travelling with Ryan. One of these is R. Reiterman of the San Francisco Examiner. Another is a freelance reporter, name unknown. According to Pearlman's account of Javers' report, the other reporters were told that they would be taken back to the airport.

Pearlman has been in touch with Miss Douvieu, who regrets these events and has promised to she what she can do, etc.

Pearlman says Ryan plans to go to the People's Church in the next day or two and he hopes the reporters will be able to accompany Ryan.

I passed this information on to John Griffith, ARA/CAR, with the recommendation that he ask the Embassy to ascertain the facts as quickly as possible.

cc. Guyana desk

Douglas J. Bennet, Jr.